

Sarah Foss

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Oklahoma State University, 2018-present
Affiliations: Global Studies, American Studies

Education

Ph.D. in History, 2012-2018, Indiana University

Dissertation Title: *"Until the Indian is Made to Walk": Indigenismo and Development in Cold War Guatemala, 1940-1996*

M.A. in Latin American & Caribbean Studies, 2010-2012, Vanderbilt University

Thesis: *Ahora todos somos panameños: Kuna Identity and Panamanian Nationalism Under the Torrijos Regime, 1968-1981*

B.S. in International Relations and History, 2004-2008, Indiana Wesleyan University

Graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors

Publications & Projects

Peer Reviewed Publications

Forthcoming 2022. *On Our Own Terms: Development and Indigeneity in Cold War Guatemala*. Under contract with The University of North Carolina Press as part of the New Cold War History Series.

2021 "Rumors of Insurgency and Assassination in Ixcán, Guatemala," *Journal of Social History* 55:1 (Fall 2021), 105-126. Winner of the 2021 Sturgis Leavitt Award for best article on a Latin American subject by SECOLAS member.

2020 "Community Development in Cold War Guatemala: Not a Revolution but an Evolution," in *Latin America and the Global Cold War*, ed. Thomas C. Field, Stella Krepp, and Vanni Pettina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 123-147.

2020 "Land and Labor Relations in Guatemala's 1952 Agrarian Reform: Rethinking Rural Identities," *Historia Agraria de América Latina* 1:1 (April 2020): 1-21.

2020 "'Una obra revolucionaria': Indigenismo and the Guatemalan Revolution 1944-1954," in *Out of the Shadow: Revisiting the Guatemalan Revolution from Post-Peace Guatemala*, ed. Heather Vrana and Julie Gibbings. Austin: University of Texas Press, 199-221.

2020 "The National Tomorrow: The Utopian Vision of *Octubre Revolucionario* in the Aftermath of Genocide in Guatemala," *The Latin Americanist* 64:4 (Dec. 2020): 423-450.

Manuscripts in Progress

Article manuscript. "‘Here I was born, here I will die’: Earthquake Politics and Development’s Failure in 1976 Guatemala” In progress.

Book manuscript. *The 23rd Department: A Social History of Guatemala and Belize’s Territorial Dispute*.

Public History Projects in Progress

Latino Oklahoma Oral History Project

Editorial Work

2021 Co-editor, Special journal issue. *Rumors and Falsifications in the Latin American Archive*. *Journal of Social History*, 55:1 (Fall 2021).

Encyclopedia Entries

2017 “Plantations” in *The Atlantic World, 1400-1900: Europe, Africa, and the Americas in An Age of Exploration, Trade, and Empires*, ed. David Head, published by ABC-CLIO.

Book Reviews

2020: Review of *Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the US and Mexican Countryside*, Tore C. Olsson, Princeton University Press, 2017, in *Historia Agraria de América Latina* 1:1 (April 2020): 145-148.

2018: *Mex-cine: Mexican filmmaking, production and consumption in the Twenty-first Century* by Frederick Luis Aldama published online in the *The Middle Ground Journal*.

2017 *Radio in Revolution: Wireless Technology and State Power in Mexico* by J. Justin Castro, published online at H-Net JHistory.

2016 *A Sentimental Education for the Working Man: The Mexico City Penny Press, 1900-1910* by Robert M. Buffington, published online at H-Net, JHistory.

Grants & Fellowships

Other Research and Travel Grants and Fellowships

- 2022 OSU Community Engagement Grant for Latino Oklahoma Project
- 2021 OSU CAS Spring Travel Award
- 2021 OSU Vice President of Research, Research Jumpstart/Accelerator Grant
- 2021 Oklahoma State University College of Arts & Sciences Subvention Fund Grant
- 2020 The Stanton Foundation Applied History Course Development Grant
- 2019 Oklahoma Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities Scholar Research Grant
- 2018 Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund Grant
- 2018 Oklahoma State University College of Arts & Sciences Spring Travel Award
- 2018 IU Graduate Student and Professional Organization Conference Travel Award
- 2017 AHA Dorothy Rosenberg Phi Beta Kappa Travel Grant for 2018 Annual Meeting
- 2017 Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society, Research Grant, Indiana University

- 2017 Mendel Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2017 SHAFR Robert A. and Barbara Divine Graduate Student Travel Grant
- 2016-2017 College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Year Research Fellowship
- 2016 Mendel Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2016 IU University Graduate School Grant-in-Aid for Doctoral Research
- 2016 College of Arts & Humanities Institute Graduate Conference Travel Grant
- 2016 Latin American Studies Association Travel Grant for 2016 Annual Meeting
- 2015-2016 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Research Fellowship
- 2015 College of Arts & Humanities Institute Dissertation Research Award, Indiana University
- 2015 Mendel Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2015 Frederick W. & Mildred C. Stoler Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2015 Robert L. Platzman Memorial Research Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2015 Albert J. Beveridge Research Grant, American Historical Association
- 2014 Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship (FLAS), Kaqchikel Maya, Indiana University
- 2014 Office of the Vice President of International Affairs (OVPIA) International Enhancement Grant, Indiana University
- 2014 Tinker Summer Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2014 Ruth Lilly Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2014 OVPIA Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (declined), Indiana University
- 2013 Tinker Summer Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2013 Mendel Summer Research Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2013 OVPIA Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2013 Casa Herrera Visiting Scholar Residency, Antigua, Guatemala, University of Texas
- 2012 FLAS Summer Fellowship for K'iche' Maya, Vanderbilt University
- 2010-2012 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship for K'iche' Maya, Vanderbilt University
- 2011 Tinker Summer Research Fellowship, Vanderbilt University
- 2011 Vanderbilt University, Grant for Conference Travel Recipient
- 2007 Lilly Research Grant Scholarship, Indiana Wesleyan University

Awards

- 2022 Sturgis Leavitt Award from Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies for best article on a Latin American subject published by a SECOLAS member in 2021
- 2022 Nominated for OSU College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Award (did not receive)
- 2020 Nominated for OSU College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Award (did not receive)
- 2020 Honorable Mention for Council of Latin American Studies Syllabus Prize
- 2018 IU History Department Susan O'Kell Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2016 Collins Living Learning Center Teaching Award
- 2008 Top International Relations Graduate, Indiana Wesleyan University
- 2008 "Best Paper Award" for International Relations Senior Seminar, Indiana Wesleyan University
- 2007 "Best Paper Award" for History Senior Seminar, Indiana Wesleyan University
- 2007-2008 NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award

2004-2008 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete Award

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

- 2022 Latin American Studies Association, presentation “Development History in Guatemala,” on roundtable “From *Fomento* to *Desarrollo* in 19th and 20th Century Latin America,” virtual conference, May 2022.
- 2022 Invited talk, “Researching Indigenous Histories of Central America,” in OSU History Department Series History Is...All Over the World, April 2022.
- 2022 Council of Latin American History, held in tandem with the American Historical Association’s annual meeting, “From Celebrated to Subversive: Competing Modernities in the Ixcán, Guatemala,” New Orleans, January 2022.
- 2021 Latin American Studies Association, presentation “The 1952 Guatemalan Agrarian Reform,” on roundtable “Comparative Histories of Latin American Agrarian Reform,” May, held virtually.
- 2021 “Community Development in Cold War Guatemala,” Invited talk with Central American History undergraduate class at Fordham University, held virtually, March 2021.
- 2021 American Historical Association, conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic
“From Celebrated to Subversive: Competing Modernities in the Ixcán, Guatemala,” paper accepted for presentation on panel “Inverting Metanarratives of Modernization and Rural/Poor ‘Backwardness’ in Latin America.”
- 2020 “Las políticas de la Guerra Fría y los programas de nutrición en Guatemala, 1944-1954,” invited paper to be presented at the colloquium Trayectorias de la ciencia, la salud y la nutrición en América Latina durante el Desarrollo y la Guerra Fría, Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá, Colombia, conference moved to virtual format due to COVID-19 pandemic, Dec. 2020.
- 2020 Latin American Studies Association cancellations due to COVID-19 pandemic
1) “An ‘Attack on Rural Backwardness’: Guatemala’s Movement for Rural Reconstruction,” paper accepted for presentation on panel “Latin America and the Third World: Local Conflicts, Transregional Circuits, and Global Transformations During the Cold War.”
2) Participant on roundtable titled “Comparative Histories of Latin American Agrarian Reform”
3) Panel organizer and chair for panel titled “Latin America and the Global Cold War”
- 2020 “Development Without Modernization in Guatemala’s Comunidades de Población en Resistencia, 1981-1996,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies, Austin, TX, March 2020.
- 2019 “Rumors of Infidelity, Insurgency, and Assassination in Ixcán, Guatemala, 1967-1978” Paper presented at Columbia University’s *Rumors in Latin American History* workshop in New York City, May 2018 for special journal issue. Workshop co-organizer and journal special issue co-editor.
- 2019 “‘Here I was born, here I will die’: The Failure of Development in Chinautla, Guatemala,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Boston, MA, May 2019. Panel organizer and Chair.

- 2019 "Photographs of Development: A Visual Analysis of Guatemala's Model Villages, 1983-1987," Paper presented at the Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies, Oaxaca, Mexico, March 2019. Panel organizer.
- 2018 "Nosotros somos los legítimos dueños de esa tierra": Políticas locales en la Reforma Agraria de Guatemala, 1951-1954. Paper presented at the Coloquio Internacional "Tópicos, debates y perspectivas de investigación en Historia Agraria de América Latina, 1800 al presente," Universidad de Santiago de Chile, December 13-14, 2018.
- 2018 "Rumors of Insurgency and Infidelity in Ixcán, Guatemala, 1968-1981," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies, April 2018, Reno, NV.
- 2018 "Redefining the 'Indian Question': Transnational *Indigenismo* in Guatemala, 1940-1960," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 2018, Washington D.C., Panel organizer.
- 2017 "Understanding, Analyzing, Sharing: How to Make the Most of Your Discussion," Invited presentation at Indiana University's Center for Innovative Teaching Associate Instructor Orientation, August 2017. Co-led with Laura Demsey.
- 2017 "A 'Little Cuba' in the Jungle: Priests in Ixcán, Guatemala, 1965-1976," Paper accepted to be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, June 2017, Washington D.C.
- 2017 "*Una obra revolucionaria*": *Indigenismo* and the Guatemalan Revolution. Paper presented at the conference "Revisiting the Guatemalan Revolution," May 2017, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.
- 2017 "Development is the New Name for Peace: Transnational Community Development Projects and Citizenship in Cold War Guatemala," Paper presented at Council of Latin American History Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, Panel organizer.
- 2016 "Nacionalismo, identidad y política en Guna Yala, 1976-1978," Paper presented at Congreso de Antropología e Historia de Panamá, Panama City.
- 2016 "Investigación del archivo sobre la historia de la antropología guatemalteca: aprendizajes en torno a la Cátedra Joaquín Noval," Paper presented at the Congreso de Estudios Mesoamericanos in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- 2016 "The Modernizing Efforts of Literacy Campaigns in Cold War Guatemala," Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association's Annual Conference, New York, New York, Panel chair.
- 2016 "Transnational Nutrition Projects and Local Politics in Guatemala, 1942-1954" Paper presented at Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Annual Conference, Cartagena, Colombia.
- 2016 "Nourishing the Modern Indian: Transnational Nutrition Projects in Post-WWII Guatemala" Paper presented at Indiana University's CLACS Graduate Conference.
- 2015 "Abriendo nuevas metodologías para estudiar la historia del indigenismo guatemalteco" Paper presented at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, VII Coloquio de Antropología y Sociología.

- 2014 “Mario Payeras and the Utopian Vision of Guatemala’s *Octubre Revolucionario*” Paper presented at CLACS Graduate Student Conference, Indiana University.
- 2013 “*Indígenas* in the Nation: Imaginings and Constructions of Identity in Guatemala, 1944-1978” Presentation for Minority Languages and Cultures Project, Indiana University.
- 2012 “*Todos somos panameños*: Kuna Identity and Panamanian Nationalism 1968-1981” Paper presented at the CLACS Graduate Student Conference at Indiana University.
- 2012 “Kuna Panamanian? National Identity Under the Torrijos Regime, 1968-1981” Presentation at the Interdisciplinary Conference on Global Research and Study Abroad, Vanderbilt University.
- 2011 “Researching Indigenous Identity in Panama” Presentation at the Tinker Roundtable, Vanderbilt University.
- 2011 “Fair Trade Coffee – A Viable Alternative?” Poster presentation at the Latin American Symposium at Michigan State University.

Teaching Experience

Oklahoma State University

HIST 1103: American History Survey

HIST 1823/2223: World History 1500-present

HIST 2513/AMST2513: Plantation to Plate: Sugar, Bananas & Coffee in the Americas (also offered as HONR1000)

HIST 3303/AMST3303: Nations on the Move: Latin American Migration and Latinx Communities in the U.S.

HIST 3453: Colonial Latin America

HIST 3463: Modern Latin America

HIST 3980: American History Through the Image (Honors Add-on)

HIST 4903: History Senior Seminar

HIST 4980: Latin American Borderlands and Frontiers (Independent Study)

HIST 5140: Indigenous Latin America (Graduate Readings Seminar)

HIST 5140: Atlantic World History (Graduate Readings Seminar)

HIST 6100: Readings in 19th Century Latin American History (Graduate Independent Study)

HIST 6100: Readings in Modern Latin America (Graduate Independent Study)

HIST 6130: Colonial Latin America (Graduate)

HIST 6130: Modern Latin America (Graduate)

Indiana University

Instructor of Record

CLLC-L220: From the Plantation to Your Plate: Sugar & Bananas in the Americas

Assistant Instructor

COM P155: Public Oral Communication

HIST H106: American History II (1865-present)

Course Assistant/Grader

HIST A300: Cultural Encounters in the New World
 HIST B226: The Mafia and Other Italian Mysteries
 HIST H105: American History I

Student Advising

PhD Students in Progress

Sam Lasala, Advisor

Kurt Terry, "The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth: Protestantism, Catholicism, and the Making of Religion in the Nineteenth Century American Southwest," Committee Member

Savannah Waters, Committee Member

Teagan Dreyer, Committee Member

MA Students

Joshua Hanna, "For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge: The Satanic Panic in the United States, 1968-2000," History, Committee Member

Catarina de Araujo, "Between Image and Object: Chichico Alkmim's Photography and the Afro-Brazilian Subject," Art History, Committee Member

MA Students in Progress

Jorge Chávez Enríquez, Committee Member

Katanna Davis, Committee Member

Rey Marrufo, Committee Member

Undergraduate Student Research Projects

Danielle Ramirez, Honors Contract, Lead Advisor (SP2020)

Danielle Ramirez, Wentz Undergraduate Scholar Research Project, Lead Advisor (AY 2020-21, 2021-22)

Service

Service to the Profession

2022 Manuscript Reviewer for the *Latin American Research Review*

2022 SECOLAS Executive Committee Member, elected position

2021 Council of Latin American History, Scobie Graduate Research Award Committee Member

2021 Manuscript Reviewer for The University of Oklahoma Press

2020 Manuscript Reviewer for *Revista de Historia de la Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica*

2020 Manuscript Reviewer for the *American Historical Review*

2020 Manuscript Reviewer for *Historia Agraria de América Latina*

2016-2019 H-Net Caribbean, Book Review Editor

2015-2018 Collaborator in the Cátedra Joaquín Noval, Guatemala City

2015-2017 Translator for the Universidad de San Carlos' General Office of Research's Quarterly Journal, Guatemala City

Service to the University

Oklahoma State University

- 2022-pres. Group II Graduate Faculty Council Vice Chair
- 2022 Reviewer for Women's Faculty Council student awards
- 2021-2022 Group II Graduate Faculty Council Secretary
- 2020-pres. History Department Faculty Writing Group Organizer
- 2021-2022 Search Committee Member for Latinx History Search
- 2021(Fall) History Department Representative to CAS Faculty Council
- 2021(Fall) History Club Faculty Advisor
- 2018-2019 Search Committee Member for Native American History Search
- 2019-2020 Search Committee Member for Native American History Search
- 2019 Women's Faculty Council Student Research Grant Reviewer
- 2018-pres. Graduate Committee Member in History Department
- 2019-pres. Curriculum Committee in History Department
- 2019-pres. Academic Integrity Facilitator

Indiana University

- 2017-2018 History Graduate Student Association Pedagogy Workshop Co-Coordinator
- August 2017 Co-organizer of History Department Associate Instructor and Course Assistant Training
- 2013-2014; Indiana University History Department, New Student mentor
- 2017-2018
- 2013-2014 Graduate and Professional Student Organization Awards Committee
- 2013-pres. Latin American Research Seminar, Indiana University

Vanderbilt University

- 2011-2012 Political Culture Graduate Student Seminar
- 2011-2012 Vanderbilt History Seminar

Public Engagement

- 2021 Provided expert testimony and brief for asylum hearing, Children's Legal Center (Chicago, IL)
- 2021 Invited roundtable participant for "Recent PhDs Roundtable," held virtually at the University of Florida, March 2021.
- 2020 Invited panelist for Immigration Town Hall, event organized by the Stillwater Public Library (cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- 2020 Invited speaker at Oklahoma State University History Club, "Becoming a Historian of Latin America," February 2020.
- 2020 Organized invited lecture for Dr. Rachel Nolan of Boston University, "Guatemalan Mayan Migration to the U.S.: From the 1980s to the Present." Sponsored by OSU American Studies as part of Indigenous Studies Speaker Series.
- 2019 Organized invited lecture for Dr. Stefán Pohl-Valero of Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia, "Assembling the Food Problem in Colombia During the Beginning of Development."

Sponsored by Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund Grant, OSU Department of History, OSU School for Global Studies and Partnerships, and Northern Oklahoma College, November 2019.

- 2018 Invited speaker at Oklahoma State University Phi Alpha Theta, "Succeeding in Graduate School," November 2018.
- 2018 Invited speaker at Oklahoma State University History Club, "The History Degree," November 2018.
- 2018 Invited keynote speaker for IU History Department Awards Luncheon, "The Graduate School Marathon: Lessons Learned Along the Way," April 2018.
- 2018 Roundtable presentation, "Experiences from the Field," Indiana University Graduate Student Mentoring Center, Feb. 2018.
- 2016 "Demanding transparency from the Guatemalan government" and "Corruption will continue as long as we don't make structural changes in Guatemala," original photographs published in "CICIG And Its Contradictions," Kirsten Weld, *NACLA Report on the Americas* 48:2 (Spring 2016): 4-7. In print and online.
- 2016 "Experiences and Research in Guatemala," Presentation for St. Thomas Lutheran Church.
- 2016 "Guatemalan Culture and Society" Presentation for GLOBASE, Kelley School of Business Graduate Program, Indiana University.
- 2015 Original photograph published by NACLA.org on November 4, 2015, with the article "Guatemala's Civil Hangover" by Rachel Nolan.
- 2015 Radio Interview and research presentation entitled "La historia del indigenismo guatemalteco" on the Universidad de San Carlos Radio Station 92.1FM, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2015 "Introduction to Guatemalan Culture & Society" Presentation for GLOBASE, Kelley School of Business Graduate Program, Indiana University.

Languages

English: Native proficiency

Spanish: Full oral and written proficiency

K'iche' Maya: Beginner oral and written proficiency

Kaqchikel Maya: Beginner oral and written proficiency

Current Affiliations & Memberships

American Historical Association

Conference on Latin American History

Guatemalan Scholars Network

Latin American Studies Association

Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies